



THE LEADER

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Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. ♦ www.grandforks.af.mil

Dec. 5, 2003

Fill 'er up



The 319th Operations Group
completes their mission
at home, abroad

— See Pages 10-11

319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Winners of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (July 2000 to June 2002)

Inside: I'll take it from here

Weekend weather

| | | |
|----------|-------|----------------|
| Today | 28/18 | Partly Cloudy |
| Saturday | 34/12 | Lt. Wintry Mix |
| Sunday | 25/8 | Snow Showers |
| Monday | 29/13 | Partly Cloudy |



Weather information courtesy
www.weatherchannel.com

Page 2



Guardian Bears

Page 6



A more effective system

Page 9



I'll take it from here

Col. Cathy C. Clothier
319th Operations Group commander

This past weekend, I finally finished unpacking the last 50 boxes that were strewn haphazardly in the basement.

Yes, I know I moved in over a year ago, but things have been a bit busy!

In one box, I found the sketch I had taped over my desk after Sept. 11, 2001. This sketch of a fireman handing our nation's flag to a military member with the World Trade Towers in the background touches me deeply. It signifies all that is good about our nation – freedom, prosperity and service before self.

Immediately after Sept. 11, 2001, this sketch highlighted the handoff from the civilian community to the military community. Our nation needed our help, and we answered the call. We said, "I'll take it from here!"

As I stood there surrounded by boxes, I pondered that phrase and how its meaning has evolved over the past two years of intense deployments.

Today, this sketch represents each of us handing off our sacred duty of defending our nation to one another. Each and every one of

us plays an integral part in protecting our way of life. We depend on each other, and our nation depends on us.

Today, our security forces Warriors meet at the front gate with snow swirling around them. One guard is coming off shift while the other squares his shoulders and says, "I'll take it from here!"

Aircrews meet in base operations. There, airfield operations experts, weather forecasters, mission planners, life support technicians and combat crew communications Warriors arm the crew with the vital information needed to execute their mission.

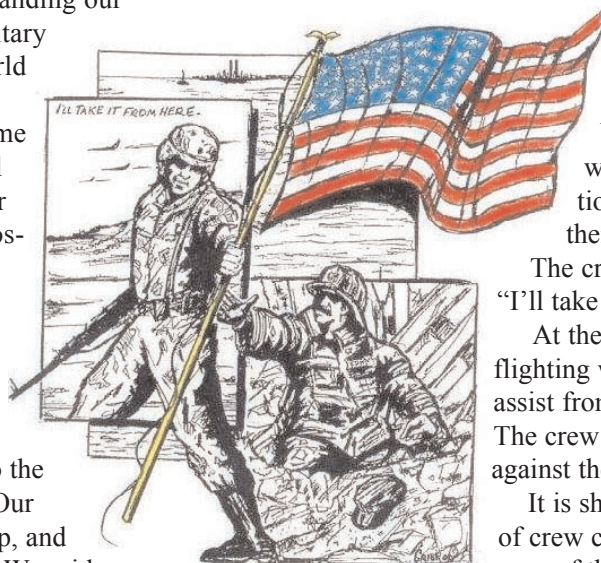
The crew says thanks and, "I'll take it from here!"

At the jet, the crew is pre-flighting while the crew chiefs assist from outside the aircraft. The crew chiefs are bundled up against the cold wind.

It is shift change. Two sets of crew chiefs huddle at the nose of the aircraft to relay

information. The new team slaps their counterparts on the back and tells them to enjoy a hot cup of coffee. They say, "I'll take it from here!"

In base housing, a military member attacks the driveway and sidewalks with a snow shovel.



– See TAKE IT, Page 3

Action Line 747-4522

The Action Line is your avenue for information about events and activities on and around the base.

For questions about current events or rumors, please leave a message. Questions will be answered in the order they are received.



Col. Mark Ramsay
319th Air Refueling Wing commander

Town Hall meeting answer

Q: *Why doesn't the skills development center offer workshops during evenings or weekends like some bases do, rather than just during the day when some of us are at work or busy with children in half-day school and after-school activities?*

A: The SDC has used historical data to schedule classes to get maximum participation. Based on class type and contracted instructor, there is a minimum of three to five people required to hold a class. If groups who are interested in a

specific class and time come to the SDC, they will work to contract that class.

Q: *Why doesn't the child development center cut a break for parents paying a set weekly rate for down days and minimal manning days when the parents have already pre-paid for the whole week?*

A: The CDC is open on down days and minimum manning days and usually is at capacity. When they program to close the center for minimum manning, family days or down days, they do prorate the fees.

18

DWI-free days

86%

Mission effectiveness rating



Courtesy photo

Cover photo

A B1-B Lancer gets fuel from a KC-135R over foreign skies. At any given time, 40 percent of the 319th Operations Group is deployed or on temporary duty completing the wing's mission.

Editorial staff

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
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| 1st Lt. Rob Lazaro | Deputy chief, public affairs |
| 2nd Lt. Ashley Gee | Chief, internal information |
| Master Sgt. Scott Davis | NCOIC, public affairs |
| Senior Airman Joshua Moshier | Managing editor |
| Airman Patrice Clarke | Staff writer |

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♦**Advertisements** – For details, call the Grand Forks Herald at (701) 780-1275.

Use space heaters safely this winter season

By Staff Sgt. Javier Calvillo
Fire inspector

With the onset of cold weather, the fire prevention office again sees the emergence of portable space heaters.

To users, the heaters represent warm feet, but to the fire prevention office, they represent a dangerous ignition source that should only be used in a closely monitored area during an emergency.

Portable electric space heaters may require more electrical current than many of the circuits in our facilities are designed to support, especially when they are plugged into the light gauge wiring contained in modular office furniture systems. The result is overheated wiring and possible ignition.

The U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission estimates that space

heaters, including both fixed and portable heaters, are associated with about 25,000 residential fires every year.

More than 300 people die each year in fires started by space heaters. An estimated 6,000 persons receive hospital emergency room care for burn injuries associated with contacting hot surfaces of room heaters, mostly in non-fire situations. Other problems frequently encountered are damaged cords, missing protective grills, worn out switches and missing legs.

The fire prevention office believes there are better options than putting a building, its contents and occupants at risk with temporary heating devices.

When people see these devices in use, they should ask the following questions:

- ▶ Is it really necessary?
- ▶ Have the appropriate heating tech-

nicians been contacted to ensure that the facility heating system or your home furnace is operating properly?

▶ Has the electrical supply been checked to ensure that overloading is not being incurred?

▶ Is the portable space heater in good operating condition?

▶ Does the portable space heater have a “tip-switch” that will turn the power off if it is tipped over?

▶ Does the portable space heater have a guard around the heating element?

▶ Does the portable space heater have the Underwriters Laboratory mark, certifying that it has been tested and found reliable?

▶ Is the portable space heater the correct size for the area I want to heat?

▶ Is the portable space heater plugged directly into the wall receptacle?

▶ Is the portable space heater outside of any hazardous location?

▶ Is the portable space heater used only when responsible adults are present?

▶ Is the portable space heater unplugged at the end of the day or shift?

▶ Have I read and followed the manufacturer’s operating instructions?

If the answer to any of the above questions is no, the potential for a fire is present, and the heater must not be used until corrective action has been taken.

Although several other types of liquid-fueled (kerosene) or compressed gas heaters are available, they are not authorized for use in Air Force facilities without prior approval of authorized heating technicians or the fire department.

For details, call the fire prevention office at 747-4174 or 747-4442.

– TAKE IT, from Page 2

The house next door is home to a wife and three small children. Daddy is deployed. He finishes clearing his own home and then starts to work on his neighbor’s.

A couple of doors down, another military member emerges with his snow shovel. He smiles and shouts, “I’ll take it from here!”

Over Iraq, Warriors of the North are refueling attack aircraft. The darkness emphasizes the small arms fire below. Their receiver disconnects and rejoins on the

wing while his buddy takes fuel. Then, with a wing rock, the receiver pilots say, “I’ll take it from here!”

Look at the sketch (Page 2) – it represents you. You, Warriors of the North, are everything that is good about our nation.

Why? Because you say, “I’ll take it from here!”

Respect all beliefs during holiday season

By Master Sgt. Gary S. Cleland
319th Air Refueling Wing
Military Equal Opportunity
Superintendent

T’is the season to enjoy the holiday... but which holiday?

As most of the base populace is gearing up for Christmas, there are families and individuals who have just finished observance of Ramadan or are preparing to celebrate Hanukah. As the month progresses, Winter Solstice, Christmas and Kwanzaa will also take place.

If you do a little further research, you will also find a myriad of other religious and non-religious holidays people may celebrate depending on their ancestry.

So, what point am I going to try to make here? Diversity, respect and accommodation can make a big difference in how effectively

the mission is accomplished.

Diversity is one of our nation’s greatest strengths. With diversity also come differences – differences in culture, values, religious beliefs and traditions.

To make diversity a strength, rather than something that causes a rift in the workplace, you have to have respect. This doesn’t mean you have to agree with someone else’s beliefs or change your own traditions; it means you respect the right of that person to have his own views.

During various religious holidays, members may require special accommodation from their supervisors to properly fulfill their religious needs. Air Force policy is supervisors and commanders should accommodate these requests as long as they do not impact cohesiveness and good order and discipline. If a member approaches you for accommoda-

tion and you are not sure how to handle it, give the chapel a call. They will advise you on the best way to meet the needs of the individual and the mission.

Think about what the holidays mean to you. Each one of us has special memories and traditions that are very personal to us. Even members of the same faith will often have a slight variation on why or how they celebrate a particular holiday. Military service often calls on us to sacrifice time away from our loved one during special times.

Each of us can help alleviate some of that stress and maintain positive work environments by respecting each other’s beliefs and being as accommodating as possible.

When you maintain that kind of an environment, people are more apt to be tighter knit, trusting and job-focused.

Know the difference

By Master Sgt. Gary S. Cleland
319th Air Refueling Wing
Military Equal Opportunity superintendent

As the United States and our coalition allies continue the War on Terrorism, it is easy to want to put a face or name to these terrorists.

When you visualize that terrorist in anger, please remember that individual is a terrorist who may be Muslim, not a Muslim terrorist.

These terrorists are radicals who twist the words of the Koran for their own political agenda. The vast majority of practicing Muslims are peace-loving individuals who condemn those who commit such violent acts in the name of their religion.

The Military Equal Opportunity office reminds people to be aware of the impact of negative behavior toward people of Middle-Eastern descent or Islamic faith.

Taking your anger out in the form of disparaging comments toward specific ethnicities or religions is not only a violation of Air Force and wing policy and civil law, but can destroy the cohesiveness in a work center that is so essential to accomplishing the mission.

First term airmen get look into future

By Airman Patrice Clarke
Public Affairs

First term airmen got to look into the future Wednesday when they attended the Right Decision Briefing held at the community activities center.

Airmen approaching reenlistment or separation received useful information from several different agencies on base regarding career opportunities and military benefits.

“We provide relevant information that will be useful to first term airman as they make the decision to separate or reenlist,” said Master Sgt Stu Eidenschink, the base career advisor.

“We want our airmen to know what the benefits of reenlistment are,” he said.

Some of the seminar topics presented pertained to monetary and medical benefits as well as a visit from the in-service Air Force reserve recruiter.

There were also briefings from the family support center, the services

squadron and the military personnel flight.

“The seminar really touched on the reason why you should stay in the Air Force,” said Airman 1st Class Camille Dumas, 319th Logistic Readiness Squadron. “It really highlighted the benefits of being in the Air Force and how to prepare yourself for getting out, if you decided to separate,” she said.

“I plan on separating from the Air Force and the seminar has prepared me for the transitional period. There are a lot of subjects the seminar talked about that I hadn’t thought of,” said Senior Airman Harriet Johnson, 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron.

RDB are held on a quarterly basis with the next one early in 2004 at the community activities center auditorium.

For career assistance advise and details on career development, call Sgt. Eidenschink at 747-3596. His office is located in the community activities center and he has a link on the base Webpage



courtesy photo

Changing of the Guard

The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard, located at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., is conducting a recruiting briefing Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the base theater. Representatives will be on hand to discuss the program in person.

The elite unit is looking for senior airmen through senior master sergeants. All applicants must meet minimum time on station requirements and are encouraged to bring their spouses to the briefing.

For details, call Tech. Sgt. Vincent Jackson of the Honor Guard directly at (202) 404-7501.

Families 'guarded' while loved ones deployed

By Senior Airman Cheryl Hackley
Minnesota Air National Guard
Public affairs

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AFPN) – Saying goodbye is never easy, especially to children who may not understand why their parents must deploy to support their country.

One of the many tools Minnesota Family Programs Office officials offer is the Guardian Bear, which is available for children ranging in age from birth to 16 years.

The Guardian Bear is a plush brown teddy bear with a camouflaged vest. It has become an important part of the deployment process for families, officials said. Inside the vest is a small note written to the child from the deployed parent.

Besides a personalized note to his children, one father told them he stored the bears up with thousands of hugs and kisses so any time they were missing him they should just hug their bear.

In many families, the child and bear have become inseparable.

While some servicemembers may feel the older children may not respond to a stuffed animal, the note and familiar camouflaged vest can still represent a gift from their father or mother who is away serving his or her country.

More than 1,000 Guardian Bears have been handed out in 2003. The bears, which are free to Minnesota Guard members, are purchased through donations given to the National Guard Foundation. Volunteers sew the small vests worn by the bears.

The 133rd Airlift Wing, located at the Twin Cities Air National Guard Base, has a similar program for families. Hercules, a small stuffed guard dog mascot, is available to anyone who deploys.

Mrs. Ruth Anderson, the Guard Family Network liaison for the base, said they wanted to be able to give something out to everyone affected by a deployment because many deploying airmen did not have children or their children were too old to receive the Guardian Bear.

The dogs were donated by a local charity that collects stuffed animals to be given away. In total, the Guard Family



Photo by Senior Airman Cheryl Hackley

The young daughter of a Minnesota National Guard member shares her blanket with her new Guardian Bear. More than 1,000 Guardian Bears have been handed out in 2003.

Network received 4,000 stuffed dogs.

Another resource available to Guard families while their loved ones are deployed is an electronic program designed to link military families with local volunteer organizations.

Any volunteer, community or faith-based organization can register to pro-

vide assistance with normal household chores, such as cleaning, repairing or gardening, that can be difficult for one parent to handle while his or her spouse is deployed.

A family member also can go online and search for these organizations within the local communities.

| News Briefs | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Last Leader Issue <p>The last issue of The Leader for 2003 will be Dec. 19. All submissions for that issue must be in by Thursday.</p> <p>The next issue will not be until Jan. 9, 2004.</p> | CES Spouses' Group <p>The Civil Engineer Squadron Spouses' Group will be meeting Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. for a holiday ornament exchange in the CES Operations conference room. All CES enlisted and officers' spouses are welcome. Please bring a wrapped ornament (\$3 or less) for the ornament exchange.</p> <p>For details, call Mrs. Angela Fogarty at 594-9504.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ 1N0X1▶ 2A5X1▶ 2A5X3▶ 2A6X1▶ 2A6X2▶ 2A6X4▶ 2A6X5▶ 2A6X6▶ 2A7X1▶ 2A7X3▶ 2E1X3▶ 2F0X1▶ 2S0X1▶ 2T0X1▶ 3C1X1▶ 3C3X1▶ 3M0X1▶ 3P0X1▶ 4A0X1▶ 4A1X1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ 4A2X1▶ 4D0X1▶ 4N0X1▶ 4P0X1▶ 4T0X1▶ 6C0X1 <p>There are also full-time active duty positions in the 2A5X1 and 2E271 AFSCs.</p> <p>For details, call Master Sgt. Wesley Ryerson, 109th AW, at DSN 344-2456, or 1-800-524-5070, or email him at Wesley.Ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil.</p> |
| Building 101 Closure <p>Building 101 will be closed Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a building-wide function. Building 101 includes the Military Personnel Flight, Civilian Personnel Flight, Finance and Traffic Management Office. If you need to visit any of these sections, please work around those hours.</p> <p>The only point of entry during this time will be the doors by MPF customer service. In the event of an emergency, call 747-4902.</p> | New York ANG <p>The 109th Airlift Wing, Scotia, N.Y., home of the C-130 ski-birds, has traditional Guard vacancies in the following career fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ 1A2X1▶ 1C0X2▶ 1C3X1 | | Penalty Box closure <p>Beginning Dec. 15, the Penalty Box will be closed until further notice due to renovations.</p> <p>For details, call the Northern Lights Club at 747-3392.</p> |



Base chapel

CATHOLIC:

Mass: 9 a.m. Sunday,
Sunflower Chapel.

Weekday Mass: 11:30 a.m.
Monday, Wednesday and
Thursday, Sunflower Chapel.

Reconciliation: 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. Sunday, or by
appointment, Sunflower Chapel.

CCD: 10:45 a.m., Twining Elementary.

Adult education, sacramental programs:

Call Mrs. Jane Hutzol at 747-3073.

Immaculate Conception: 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Monday, Sunflower Chapel.

PROTESTANT:

Traditional worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower
Chapel.

Contemporary worship: 6 p.m. Sunday, Prairie
Rose Chapel.

Sunday School: 9 a.m., Eielson Elementary.

Protestant youth of the chapel: 4 to 5:45 p.m.
Sunday, youth center.

Men of the Chapel Bible study: Noon Monday,
Prairie Rose Chapel conference room.

Young adults: 6 p.m., Chaplain Swain's home. For
details, call 747-6468.

Children's Christmas Program: 4 p.m. Sunday,
Sunflower Chapel.

JEWISH:

For details, call Synagogue B'nai Israel at 775-5124.

RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:

For details, call Dr. Levitov at 780-6540.

MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:

For details, call 747-5673.



Base theater

Today, 7 p.m.

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (R)

Saturday, 7 p.m.

Kill Bill (R)

Dec. 12, 7 p.m.

Scary Movie 3 (PG-13)

Dec. 13, 3 p.m.

Brother Bear (G)

Dec. 13, 7 p.m.

Mystic River (R)

Tickets: \$1.50 children, \$3 adults
For details, call 747-3021/6123.

Base pharmacy: behind the scenes

By Mrs. Sarah Bloch
Public affairs

It may not cross one's mind about what goes on behind the pharmacy's counter, because as a consumer, one just wants to pick up their prescription and go.

Here's a quick peek into the happenings at our base pharmacy, which fills about 275 prescriptions per day.

Recently a new automated prescription dispenser and system arrived as part of the "Enhancing Patient Safety in the Medication Dispensing Process" program. It's an Air Force wide initiative to improve patient safety and the efficiency of the medication dispensing process.

"It's a huge benefit," said Master Sgt. Timothy Brown, pharmacy technician and noncommissioned officer in charge of the 319th Medical Support Squadron pharmacy. "The ultimate goal is patient safety."

He said the new system is efficient because it's accurate, decreasing errors in the medication dispensing process. However, he also said it's probably slowing the pharmacy down a few minutes to make them more accurate.

With the new dispenser in place and connected to a computer system, medications can be dispensed automatically. In addition, it allows for the scanning of bar codes to ensure that a prescription label and its medicine bottle lot number match before the dispenser counts the specified number of tablets. The dis-

penser will not allow a unit to release tablets until there is a match, alerting the staff member to check why a discrepancy occurred.

"It's one of those cases where technology has intended to slow us down," said Sgt. Brown. "It is designed to make us error-free, even though our error rate is already very low."

Air Force bases domestically and abroad will have automated dispensers as part of this program. The change stemmed from a Pharmacy Reallocation Study by PUMA Systems, Inc., who was contracted by TRICARE Management to perform the study.

The pharmacy already had an automated dispenser before receiving the new one, yet it took up four times the space to hold 88 dispensing units, compared to the new dispenser, which holds 100. Sgt. Brown referred to the 100 units as the "quicker movers," basically the ones that hold their top moving countable drugs or those medicines that are most commonly prescribed on a regular basis.

The pharmacy's staff continues to do many things just how they had been doing them, yet with the new pharmacy automation system in place, it allows them to do them with more electronically-based processes.

When a patient comes to retrieve his or her prescription, they now must sign their name on an electronic signature machine and confirm the prescription they're receiving prior to being handed the prescription.

"They always signed for it, and now it's just an electronic capture," said Sgt. Brown.

Patients still must present their identification card. All of these steps ensure a patient's safety by making sure the correct person, or someone allowed to on their behalf, is picking up the correct prescription.

Other Air Force bases have been experiencing the new system longer, so some 'lessons learned' were passed down to assist bases just beginning to use it. Sgt. Brown said some of the minor ones given were useful.

"The old one was not connected to the computer system and had no capability at all to have a new pill in a new cell that had a different pill in it before," he said.

They are also specially designed to not allow staff to reassign them to particular classes of drugs that may cause cross contamination.

"Overall, (I'm satisfied with it) because I understand why we got it," said Staff Sgt. Jay Kraviec. "For what it's supposed to do, it's fine. It's an Air Force buy, and the technology was there."

"It decreased the potential for errors, even though it's low to begin with," Sgt. Brown said. "It can report waiting time, who filled the prescription and who checked it. It's more secure and not flawed so long as users follow protocols."

The new system arrived on a Friday and the pharmacy staff received training on it by those who installed the system



Photo by Mrs. Sarah Bloch

Master Sgt. Brad Ortizman signs for a prescription using the pharmacy's new automated system.

over that weekend. Since they caught on quick and completed their training on a half-day Saturday, they did not have to return for the scheduled Sunday training.

"We dove in and soaked up all the things they trained us on," said Sgt. Kraviec. "We were quick learners."

The regular hours of operation for the base pharmacy are Mondays through Fridays from 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed weekends, holidays and other days as directed by the Air Force.

Pressing on

319th OG excels despite manning issues, high operations tempo



Photo by Airman Patrice Clarke

Airman Milton Carrell, 906th Air Refueling Squadron aircrew life support, tests a parachute for its yearly inspection.

By Airman Patrice Clarke
Public affairs

The 319th Operations Group sprinted out of the blocks just over two years ago and hasn't slowed down since. In fact, they wryly refer to their pace as a marathon.

With a planned aircrew temporary duty rate of 200 days per year, emergency staffing levels in some specialties and a plethora of three-levels, these Warriors of the North are proud of their role in combating terrorism and of the accolades they've earned.

In the midst of the build-up to Operation Iraqi Freedom, our OG

sailed through a Unit Compliance Inspection. Then, the week after the returning from winning the war and liberating Iraq, they dazzled inspectors from 15th Air Force in their Aircrew Standardization Evaluation Visit, walking away with an "excellent" overall and racking up numerous "outstandings" for training and flight records programs. With the Operational Readiness Inspection looming just weeks away, aircrew members spent literally thousands of hours in classified study for their "one-mistake-and-you-bust" testing.

All specialties honed their skills during exercises. Their hard work paid off when the wing earned a coveted "excellent." During the past year, the OG also walked away with prestigious Air Mobility Command awards – AMC's Radar Approach Control Facility of the Year and AMC's Weather Facility of the Year.

How do they continue to be so successful? The people.

"At any given time, our group has 40 percent of its people deployed at various locations," said Lt. Col. Sean Carey, 906th Air Refueling Squadron commander. "Despite the high number of deployed people, the folks who are home are doing a phenomenal job."

Every shop in OG is affected by the higher operations tempo. Many shops throughout the group are one or two airmen deep. These are not technical sergeants or master sergeants running these shops. These are brand new airmen who have been in the Air Force less than a year and are already taking charge of things.

"I have airmen running entire shops," said Lt. Col. Robert Dague, 319th Operations

Support Squadron commander. "Airmen are doing things never before asked of them. They are accepting any challenge thrown at them, even if that challenge is stepping up and taking charge of things while their supervisors are deployed."

People are needed in various places around the globe. The 319th OG not only supported Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, but they also participated in exercises at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., and Eglin AFB, Fla. In addition, they execute aeromedical evacuation missions, general officer orientation flights and routine refueling missions – if linking two aircraft hurtling through the sky can be called "routine!"

One area affected by the higher operations tempo is training.

Training must continue despite the fact the people who need the training are very seldom on station. Schedulers are constantly crafting ways to ensure all their people get the required amounts of training needed to continue doing their jobs with minimum waivers.

"Scheduling is difficult now," said Senior Airman Joseph Callahan, 906th ARS boom operator. "We have pilots, copilots and boom operators – just about everyone who needs a certain amount of training. We'll have someone return from a deployment and be scheduled to deploy again in three weeks. When they are home, they usually get as much training as we can give them in that little amount of time."

"Technically, someone can be 'home,' but they are somewhere other than Grand Forks flying missions or getting training," said 1st Lt. Thomas Hutton, 911th ARS co-pilot. "Home just means they are in the United States."

Home is where the effects of the higher operations tempo are seen the most.

"Being deployed during the holidays is hard on the deployed member and their families here," said Master Sergeant Abraham Mendoza, 911th ARS acting first sergeant.

"We try to ensure the families here are always taken care of," said Lt. Col. Jon Klaus, 911th ARS commander. "We have a spouse's support group that meets monthly, and we try to have a squadron social event as well, which includes things like potlucks."

"I also try to call the deployed spouses every other week to see how they're doing and to let them know I'm here if they need anything."

Airmen who are at home and forced to pick up the extra load still adjust.

"This is the only operations tempo I've ever known," said Airman 1st Class Derrick Cooley, 319th OSS commander's support staff. "If we were 100 percent manned, it would be like a vacation."

"I'm the only one in my office who does my job, and it's a lot of work. I'm also a youth coach at the youth center, not to mention my additional duties at work. That doesn't change things. To me, it's just part of my job. I've never known anything different."

"It's amazing to see us sustain the tempo and be successful doing it," said Col. Carey. "The young people here are growing up and maturing in their job at a rate people cannot believe".

For now, the marathon continues, and the people of the 319th OG have hit their stride as they defend our nation, combat terrorism and excel at every challenge.

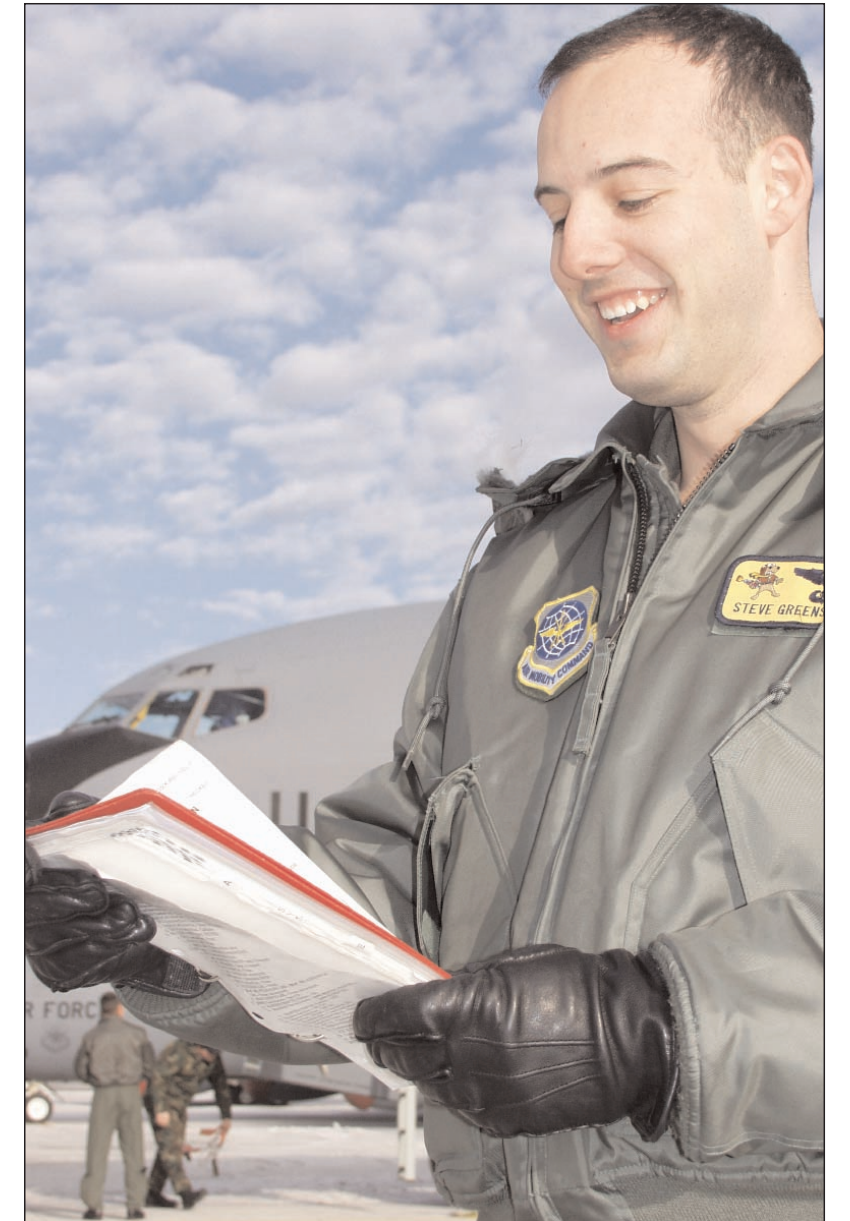


Photo by Airman Patrice Clarke

1st Lt. Steve Greenspan, 906th ARS, reviews his pre-flight checklist.



Courtesy photo

A KC135-R Stratotanker flies in a dissimilar formation during operations at a forward deployed location.

Community

Today

PASTA BAR: The Northern Lights Club offers a “pasta bar” along with the day’s hot entree during lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CLUB DINING: The Northern Lights Club offers sirloin steak as a special tonight from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Saturday

CLUB KARAOKE: The Northern Lights Club offers karaoke from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.

CLUB DANCING: The Northern Lights Club offers dancing from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. to ‘club mix’ music with “DJ ‘C.’”

Sunday

FOOTBALL FRENZY: The Northern Lights Club invites everyone to watch football and win prizes.

SUNDAY BRUNCH: The Northern Lights Club offers Sunday brunch from from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$3, and there is a Members First discount for club members.

Monday

FOOTBALL FRENZY: The Northern Lights Club invites everyone to watch football and win prizes.

Tuesday

PRETEEN SLEDDING TRIP: There is a preteen sledding trip to Turtle River State Park Dec. 13 for ages 6 to 12.

The trip departs the youth center at 1 p.m. and returns at 4 p.m.

Cost is \$3 and youth must be signed up by Dec. 9.

Youth will need a sled, warm clothing and a signed permission slip.

Wednesday

FARGO SHOPPING TRIP: Outdoor recreation is sponsoring a shopping trip to Fargo.

The cost for the trip is \$10 per person. Children younger than five are free.

Cost includes transportation only. Sign up by Dec. 10.

CLUB DINING: The Northern Lights Club offers an “all-you-can-eat” taco Bar from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$6.

Thursday

CLUB DINING: The Northern Lights Club offers club members \$1 lunch day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The menu is meatloaf.

Upcoming

BOWL BY MAIL: The 4th annual Air Force “Bowl by Mail” youth bowling

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Community

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tournament held at Dakota Lanes is Dec. 30. The tournament is open to youth ages 5 to 18 who are authorized to use Service’s facilities. Prizes will be awarded in different categories.

Register at the youth center through Dec. 22.

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE CLUB:

The Northern Lights Club offers you to bring in the new year at the club for dinner and dancing.

Prime rib and jumbo shrimp will be served from 6 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

Dancing will be from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. with a DJ, party favors and a champagne toast at midnight.

Club members get in free; non-mem-

ber cost is \$5. For reservations or details, call 747-3392.

HOLIDAY DANCES: The youth center will be holding holiday dances Dec. 20 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. for ages 6 to 12 and 9:30 to 11 p.m. for ages 13 to 18. Cost is \$3. To participate sign up at the youth center by Dec. 16.

FARGO YOUTH SHOPPING TRIP:

The youth center is sponsoring a shopping trip to the West Acres Mall Dec. 23 for ages 13 to 18 departing from the youth center at noon and returning at 7:30 p.m. A parent permission slip will be required. Cost is \$10.

There must be 10 participants to hold the trip. Sign up at the youth center by Dec. 17.

Last week’s crossword answers

The crosswords will return next week

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Sports

Warriors skate to 2-2 tie

By Capt. Jesse Carlson
Men's varsity hockey team

The Warrior varsity hockey team tied divisional opponent Rumors Bar and Casino 2-2 Nov. 26 at Eagles Arena in Grand Forks.

The Warriors were able to draw first blood in the first period. After Deron Christy won the draw in the Rumors defensive zone, Chad Lynch tipped in a Jesse Carlson shot from the point to give the Warriors an early 1-0 lead.

After some back and forth play, Dean

Porter was interfered with in the offensive zone and was awarded a penalty shot. Making easy work of the goaltender with a quick fake, Porter slipped the puck into the open net to give the Warriors a 2-0 advantage.

Unfortunately, that was all the offense the Warriors could muster.

Rumors was able to add a goal in each the second and third period to tie the game and bring the Warrior's season record to 1-0-1.

The Warrior's next game is Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Eagles Arena.

Warriors fall short, 100-95

By Tech. Sgt. D.J. Lemelle
Men's varsity basketball head coach

The Warriors men's varsity basketball team dropped a heartbreaking 100-95 loss to the University of Mary Mauraders junior varsity team Nov. 21 in Bismarck.

It was their fourth loss in as many tries against college competition.

Trailing by as many as 27 points with under 10 minutes to play, the Warriors went for broke and fell into their full-court press.

The press worked to perfection as the Warriors cut the lead to 10 with less than two minutes remaining.

However, the Mauraders came through with clutch offensive rebounding to put a halt on the Warriors miracle comeback.

Despite a 3-4 record, the base men's varsity basketball team is on a roll and a mission.

"We grew up as a team tonight," said head coach D.J. Lemelle. "The three pre-

vious losses against the Jamestown College junior varsity, Iowa Central and Iowa Lakes community colleges gave us experience playing against size, which helped us gameplan better against the University of Mary.

"We fell behind by 17 with eight minutes to go before the half, and we cut the lead to 8. When we opened up the second half, everything they threw up went in, and our shots didn't fall."

"Our guys have a tremendous amount of pride within themselves," Lemelle said. "Hats off to the Mauraders. Their big guys made big plays down the stretch.

"The season is bright because of the experience the guys are getting with starters being out. We also just got back our floor general Matt Wireman. In the 3 games he has ran the point, we've averaged 98 points a game."

The Warriors next games are Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m. at the fitness center against Minot Air Force Base.